Wages to Women equivalent to their male counterparts

†4054. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 per cent burden in cottage and small industries like animal husbandry, agriculture, forestry, populty farming, food processing etc. is shouldered by women and these womenfolks remain "invisible workers";

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that these women do not get even the minimum wages nor any pay scales matching with that of their male counterparts; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to provide these women with the wages equivalent to their male counterparts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) As per the information provided by the Ministry of Labour who are dealing with the subject, women workers in the concerned sectors come under the unorganized sector and their wages are paid as per provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The Act does not make any distinction on the basis of sex. The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 which extends to the whole of India, provides for equal remuneration to women for the same work or work of a similar nature. The Central Government is the appropriate Government in relation to any employment carried on by or under the authority of the Central Government or railway administration, or in relation to a banking company, a mine, oilfield or major port of any corporation established by or under a Central Government Act. In respect of all other employments, the State Government are the appropriate governments. Under the Act, Officers of the appropriate government notified as Inspectors make inspections and prosecute those found violating provisions of the Act. The Central Government monitors implementation of the Act. Considering the special problems of the women workers and in order to pre-empt their

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

exploitation in various employments, several laws have been enacted by the Government, such as the Plantation Labour Act, 1951, the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, the Inter-State Migrant Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, the Building and Other Construction (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, etc.

Reservation to handicapped in Government Departments, Public Undertakings, etc.

4055. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rule of reservation of three per cent of posts for the handicapped in Government Departments, Public Undertakings and Private Sector Units is being implemented strictly;

(b) if so, the break-up of placements thereof, category-wise; and

(c) if not, the measures Government propose to take to ensure strict compliance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 provides for reservation of vacancies of posts of not less than three per cent for persons or class of persons with disability of which one percent each to be reserved for persons suffering from (i) blindness or low vision; (ii) hearing impairment; (iii) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy, in the posts identified for each disability by every appropriate Government in every establishment. Provisions of the Act including this Section are in force since 7.2.1996.

As per information received from Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT), total number of persons in position in respect of Ministries/Departments is reported as follows: